



# Horn Top 20 presented by Altstadt: No. 9 Texas A&M Aggies



Coming in at No. 9 in the Horn Top 20 presented by Altstadt is our friends down in College Station. After sniffing the College Football Playoff in 2020, Jimbo Fisher and the Texas A&M Aggies fell short of expectations in 2021. But with the No. 1 recruiting class in town and a healthy QB room, the Aggies could be ready to make noise.

## Horn Top 20 Roundtable Discussion

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## TexAgs Beat Writer Olin Buchanan Joins B&E

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What You Need to Know

AP Poll Ranking: #6

2021 Record: 8-4 (4-4) 6th in SEC West

2021 Bowl Result: Withdrew from Gator Bowl due to COVID-19

NCAA Championship Winner Odds: +2500

SEC Champion Odds: +1800

Regular Season Win Total: O/U 8.5

To Make CFB Playoff Odds: Yes +700/No -1200

2022 Schedule

Sep. 3 – Sam Houston

Sep. 10 – Appalachian State

Sep. 17 – Miami

Sep. 24 – *Arkansas* (Arlington, TX)

Oct. 1 – *at Mississippi State*

Oct. 8 – *at Alabama*

Oct. 22 – *Ole Miss*

Nov. 5 – *Florida*

Nov. 12 – *at Auburn*

Nov. 19 – UMass

Nov. 26 – *LSU*

Player to Watch

Haynes King, and Conner Weigman, QB

The biggest question mark entering the season is the quarterback season and arguably the one spot that could be the difference between an 8-4 season or 11-1. After a season in which it felt like everything could go wrong at QB, Jimbo Fisher is hopeful either Haynes King or Connor Weigman grabs the starting job by the throat. Regardless of who is named the starter, Weigman is a true freshman and King has only played in four career games. Jimbo will need the starter to learn quickly if A&M is hopeful for another 2020 season.

Breakdown *Marcus Spears*

In the rugged SEC, finishing fourth in the West Division is still a high achievement. That’s why Coach Jimbo Fisher is always looking for ways to improve the team after last year’s 8-4 season and declining the invitation to the Gator Bowl due to COVID-19 and injury issues.

The defense remains stellar, ending the season second in points allowed with 15.9 per game but there were some coaching changes during the offseason. The Aggies added Ole Miss linebackers coach D.J Durkin naming him defensive coordinator. Then the Aggies brought back former defensive analyst Tyler Santucci to become the Co-DC and linebacker’s coach. They hope they can continue their success on the defensive side of the ball.

There was a lot of turnover in the defensive line core due to the exits of Demarvin Leal, Tyree Johnson and Michael Clemons, losing 24 sacks. The plan is for their replacements to take the opportunity to step up and continue that production. Cornerback Myles Jones returns from last season’s foot injury that ended his season and safety Jardin Gilbert replaces Leon O’Neal Jr. but besides that, they have their same core in the secondary. Linebacker Andre White Jr. wants to have a progression from last season, replacing Aaron Hansford as MLB success and sophomore Edgerrin Cooper moves in as his replacement on the weak side.

Offensively former Colorado State Head Coach Steve Addazio will coach the offensive line. Addazio has been part of a successful staff before being part of the 2006 and 2008 National Championship Florida Gators teams.

Quarterback Haynes King is in his first year as a starter after backing up Zach Calzada last season. Running back, Devon Archane will get the bulk of the carries after sharing the duties with Isaiah Spiller. Expect explosive numbers from Archane after rushing for 910 and 9 TDs last season, averaging 7.0 yards a carry. Receiver Ananias Smith looks to improve his performance after leading the team in receptions and receiving TDs with 47 catches and 6 TD. Junior Chase Lane had high expectations last season but was cut short due to a season-ending leg injury but he returns to the fold. Also, expect freshman Evan Stewart to get a lot of reps. Tight End Max Wright takes over for Jalen Wydermyer, rounding out the receiving core.

If King can get rolling at QB, Jimbo Fisher can make some noise rising to the occasion. They can be a threat to win the SEC if all these things run together.

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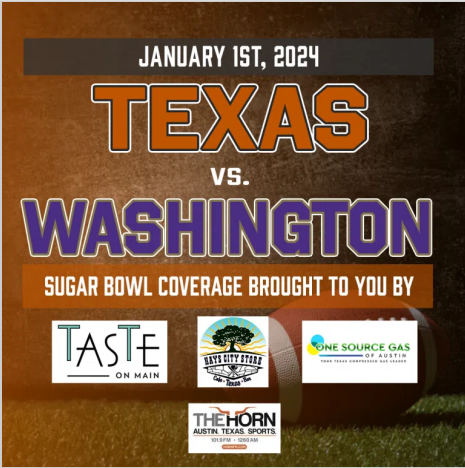
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Patrick's Big Fat Poll of the day asks, How many more losses will Texas have in the regular season?



- 1
- 2
- oh no!
- zero

Voting Ends: Never

# CONTESTS

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